



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

DMC Subcommittee Minutes of Regular Meeting

Polk County River Place
2309 Euclid Avenue, Room 2
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

August 14, 2019

Present: Wayne Ford, Chair; Diamond Denney; Bob Greenlee; Stephanie Hernandez; Ana Clymer for Sandy Lint; Stephan Pearson*; Miguel Trevino*; John Wauters; Patricia Weir*; Chris Wyatt*

Staff: Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Kathy Nesteby; Julie Rinker

*=Joined by phone

- **Welcome/Introductions**
- **Agenda - Additions/Amendments**

Wayne Ford called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. A quorum was not present until later in the meeting. There were no changes to the agenda.

- **Minutes Approval (Vote)**

The minutes were approved once quorum was present. **John Wauters moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting, seconded by Bob Greenlee. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Update Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference (CJJ)**

Dave Kuker provided information on the CJJ Conference held in late June in Washington, DC. CJJ was a key leader regarding reauthorization of the JJDP Act in late 2018 and provided a voice between states, legislators, and OJJDP. Approximately 40 states are members. All of Iowa's congressional delegates who were in office at that time voted to approve the reauthorization; Senator Grassley was a primary supporter.

Workshops focused on front-end system processing reforms for low risk youth and collaboration amongst community stakeholders. Some focus was given to ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences). A physician spoke about health issues in children who have experienced trauma.

The visit included meetings with legislative staff from Iowa's congressional delegation. Rep. Loeb sack was in attendance and Sen. Grassley phoned from the Senate. All indicated support of the JJDP Act. Legislators were invited to visit a program in their district and/or attend a future

JJAC meeting. Support for the recent reentry grant application was also requested. Ford suggested inviting them to attend a future DMC meeting.

- **Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts**

Michael reported that a meeting was held with Andrew Allen, JJAC Chair, to provide information on Iowa's current reform efforts. Michael wanted to insure that all council and subcommittee members were aware of this as well. He noted past recommendations from the CASP and IGJI workgroups and the current reentry efforts for youth returning home from placement. He will continue to provide updates.

- **Juvenile Justice System Improvement Summit (JJSI) – November 2017**

National consultants assessed Iowa's juvenile justice system and provided recommendations. (A handout was provided.) These recommendations are being worked upon by a variety of groups staffed by CJJP. Members asked staff to provide the status of the JJSI recommendations.

- **House File 766 – Study Committee Potential JJ Funding Transfer**

HF766 is the HHS appropriations bill and includes language requiring that CJJP seat a group to develop a plan and recommendations to transfer juvenile justice-related funding from DHS to State Court Administration (SCA) or another entity. The group is reviewing if it is feasible to transfer administration of the funds and what improvements could be made to the overall system. Three subcommittees have been seated to review specifics—Graduated Sanctions & Court-ordered Services; Group Care; and Detention Fund. Members on the workgroup include JJAC and DMC members. The SCA is currently in the process of hiring a Director of Juvenile Court Services (JCS).

Other work in CJJP includes pre-charge diversion in four pilot sites; improvements to the Detention Screening Tool (DST) and the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA), policy development and training for JCS officials.

- **Diversion Effort - Letter**

Kuker reported that Iowa's juvenile justice system has been over-engaging low risk youth and underserving moderate to high risk youth—all implications for disparity.

He noted the pre-charge diversion effort currently underway in four pilot sites. The purpose is to provide services for low risk youth through systems outside of juvenile justice. To accomplish this, cooperation is needed from community leaders, school, law enforcement, and JCS. Handouts were developed to implement pre-charge diversion statewide.

Kuker asked members to support a letter to be signed by chairs of the JJAC, the ITFYW, and this subcommittee. The letter would be sent to the Chief JCO's, the Chief Justice and SCA for further consideration on the best approach to implement statewide practice and policy for low risk youth who commit low level crimes. Once shared, members would be asked to provide follow up through meetings, calls, and other contacts.

Wauters asked if funds would be shifted to provide more services for higher risk youth. Michael responded that some funds would be shifted to address the needs of high risk youth at the community level. Low risk youth would be diverted to other services.

Chris Wyatt noted that more evidence-based practices are needed for higher risk youth.

Kuker added that most Graduated Sanctions funding goes toward supervision services. More cognitive and therapeutic programs are needed, some funds would go for low risk youth. He will continue to provide more information at future meetings.

- **Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITFYW) Update**

- Council Funds – Planning/Training Effort

Kathy Nesteby reported that the ITFYW is supportive of the pre-charge diversion effort and will provide a letter of support with recommendations on gender and race.

Other efforts include updating the protocol publication on female responsive approaches. The publication will be more intersectional. A final draft will be shared with this group.

Nesteby asked members to give consideration towards a joint event to raise awareness on DMC and gender issues. This would need to be discussed at a Policy & Program Subcommittee meeting and forwarded to the JJAC for approval.

- **New Federal Descriptor/Title –Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities, DMC, or Other (Vote)**

Kuker reported that there is a nationwide movement changing use of the term ‘DMC’ to ‘RED’ (Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities). He asked members if there was interest in changing the name of the DMC Subcommittee to RED. There was consensus keep DMC.

[The group recessed for lunch from 11:40 a.m. to 12:24 p.m.]

- **October NAACP Conference**

Kuker discussed the Iowa-Nebraska NAACP conference. At this time, there is no agenda. The event is October 15 at the DMACC FFA Enrichment Center. Members should let Kuker know of their interest in attending. Ford asked to invite Betty Andrews to the next meeting.

- **DMC Data**

Kuker reviewed a data handout and noted a goal was set for a 7% reduction in complaints from 2018 to 2019. However, in most areas, complaints for African-American youth actually increased, although Johnson and Scott Counties have met the 7% reduction. He suggested sending a letter to the Chief JCOs and SCA indicating that this goal could be achieved through statewide pre-charge diversion. Ford suggested a letter to the editor as well.

Ford asked why things weren’t getting better. Kuker responded that in terms of pre-charge diversion, most metro jurisdictions have something in place. To reduce statewide numbers, a

standardized policy is needed amongst schools, attorneys, juvenile court, and law enforcement. Other possibilities include a court rule or code change.

Kuker listed a number of low-level offenses with which minority youth are frequently charged. He would like to provide pre-charge diversion information to communities. As part of the JJDP Act funding, nine Iowa communities must submit an implementation plan with objectives and data sets. OJJDP will want to know what went well, what needs fixing, and why goals weren't met.

Greenlee suggested involving the general public and local legislators. There are programs that could be included, local listening sessions to identify what providers and communities need for interventions and assistance.

- **Local DMC Efforts – DMC Sub Community Members**

- **Des Moines**—Ford reported that elementary teachers in inner city schools are 'giving up' due to behavioral issues. Wauters noted that more resources are needed.
- **Davenport**—Stephanie Hernandez stated that conversations continue regarding the need for an assessment center for law enforcement to drop off kids. Assessments would include child and family needs. Meetings have been held with local legislators. In June, FTDM and YTDM meetings have been held in the detention facility for kids over 14. Due to the number of youth aged 12-13, the age requirement was lowered.
- **Waterloo**—no report.
- **Sioux City**—Stephan Pearson voiced concern that many referrals are for younger youth aged 7-8. A community block party will be held on August 20 to provide outreach to community members and youth before the start of school.
- **Iowa City**—Pat Weir reported that several random shootings have happened, but no injuries.

- **Coalition for Juvenile Justice DMC Conference – November 20 & 21, 2019**

Kuker reported that Judge Kevin McKeever, who has been working with community stakeholders in Linn County, has been selected to attend the conference in November in Scottsdale, Arizona. Ford reported he may present information on Iowa's minority impact statements. He would cover his conference expenses.

- **Future Meeting – & 11/13/19 (Conf. Call-Webinar)**

Ford would like to hold a meeting in September to further discuss current issues, develop a letter to the editor, and set up listening post sessions. He will work with Kuker to establish a date.

Wauters resigned from the DMC Subcommittee. Ford thanked Wauters for service and involvement with youth in Iowa's juvenile justice system, this subcommittee, and the JJAC.

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker, Administrative Secretary, Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning